THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) A proposal to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has been submitted to the Government by HPCL.

(b) Under this Scheme, the surplus employees identified by HPCL are about 1,000 in non-management category and 250 in management category (about 11% of workforce). The estimated expenditure to be incurred on the Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been indicated as about Rs. 260 crores.

New Oil and Gas found in Jaisalmer and Barmer

3338. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has recently found new oil and gas resources in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer and Barmer districts;

(b) whether the oil samples have since been tested, if so, with what results; and

(c) the details of plans for further exploration of oil and gas in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) operates only in the Jaisalmer District of the State of Rajasthan and has recently struck oil in the new prospect, Chinnewala Tibba of this District. The well at the above prospect is under testing.

(c) Based on the results of the testing of their well and reassessment thereafter, ONGC plan to carry out 2D seismic survey and consequential activities for further exploration.